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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Employment Bulletin

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EMPLOYMENT

Overall establishment employment in Rhode Island declined by 4,500 in mid-July to 457,200 as a result of vacation-related plant closings in many manufacturing industries, combined with a seasonal downturn in the nonmanufacturing sector, reported John S. Renza, Director of the Rhode Island Department of Employment Security. Although the current total represents a monthly job decrease, it is 1,800 above the July 1988 level of 455,400.

Reflecting declines caused primarily by vacation closings, factory employment fell by 2,900 in the June-July period to 109,800. Furthermore, this figure is 1,500 less than a year ago. Employment levels in both the Durable Goods and Nondurable Goods categories were down by 1,600 and 1,300, respectively. The largest monthly decrease occurred in Jewelry-Silverware (-700), followed by Textiles (-400), Plastics Products (-300) and Primary Metals, Electrical Machinery and Paper Products (-200 each). In addition, smaller monthly downturns of 100 each were registered in Fabricated Metals, Nonelectrical Machinery, Transportation Equipment, Instruments, the Miscellaneous Manufacturing segment, Apparel, Printing-Publishing, Chemical Products and Leather Products. Employment in Lumber/Furniture, Stone-Clay-Glass, Food-Beverage and Rubber Products was unchanged from last month.

Nonmanufacturing employment dropped by 1,600 to the July level of 347,400, primarily the result of education-related reductions in Government (-2,300) and Transportation/Public Utilities (-700) which more than offset monthly gains in Services (+700), Contract Construction (+600) and Finance/Insurance/Real Estate (+100). Employment in Wholesale/Retail Trade showed no change from the prior month. On an annual comparison, Rhode Island's current nonfactory figure reflects an increase of 3,300 jobs.

The July work week averaged 38.9 hours, down 0.5 of an hour from a year ago. Production workers averaged $9.11 an hour in July, up 6 cents from the previous month and 55 cents compared to July 1988.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment in Rhode Island increased seasonally in July to 21,100 from the June level of 20,100. A year ago this month, the jobless total stood at 16,200.

In concert with the increase in unemployment, the state's unadjusted unemployment rate rose by one-tenth of a percentage point - from 3.8 percent in June to the July estimate of 3.9 percent. On a seasonally adjusted basis, the current rate was unchanged from the prior month's estimate of 3.9 percent. In July 1988, both the Rhode Island unadjusted and seasonally adjusted rates were placed at 3.0 percent.

Nationally, the civilian unadjusted unemployment rate declined to 5.3 percent in July, from the month earlier estimate of 5.5 percent. Similarly, the U.S. seasonally adjusted rate also decreased - from 5.3 percent last month to the July estimate of 5.2 percent.

RHODE ISLAND MINIMUM HOURLY WAGE

The minimum hourly wage in Rhode Island increased on August 1, 1989, to $4.25 per hour from $4.00 per hour.

As a result, workers who apply for either Unemployment Insurance benefits or Temporary Disability Insurance benefits on or after August 7, 1989, must meet new minimum earnings requirements in order to be eligible for benefits. A worker must now have earned at least $85 per week for 20 weeks in the Base Period or a total of at least $5,100 in the Base Period in order to quality for benefits.

Questions concerning the new minimum wage in Rhode Island should be directed to the Rhode Island Department of Labor, Labor Standards Division at 457-1808. Information about the Unemployment Insurance and Temporary Disability Insurance programs is available from the Department of Employment Security, Public Relations Office at 277-3718.

DEPARTMENT HOSTS NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT SECURITY CONFERENCE

The R.I. Department of Employment Security hosted the 53rd Annual Meeting of the Interstate Conference of Employment Security Agencies, Inc. (ICESA) in Providence during the week of August 20-25, 1989. ICESA is a Washington, D.C. based non-profit organization that represents the interests of the employment security system before Congress and the Federal government. Membership is comprised of employment security agencies in the fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

More than 250 professionals in the field from throughout the United States and Canada met to discuss such timely and topical issues as the future of the U.S. Employment Services, Taxes and Program Funding, Veterans' Employment and Training, Unemployment Insurance Issues, Quality Control and Confidentiality and the broad issue of Workforce 2000.

U.S. Labor Department Deputy Assistant Secretary Carolyn M. Golding represented Secretary Elizabeth Dole during the conference, and Walter J. Biscardi, a Management Consultant and I.B.M. Retiree, delivered the keynote address. Conferees also heard Congressional Staff Members from the House Committees on Ways & Means and Education & Labor.

Michael V. Deisz, the Executive Director of the North Dakota agency, was installed as the President, replacing Richard G. Freeman, Director of the Iowa D.E.S. Betsy Justus, Chair of the North Carolina Employment Security Commission, is the President-Elect.

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RHODE ISLAND

Labor Force - Unemployment Estimates
(In thousands)

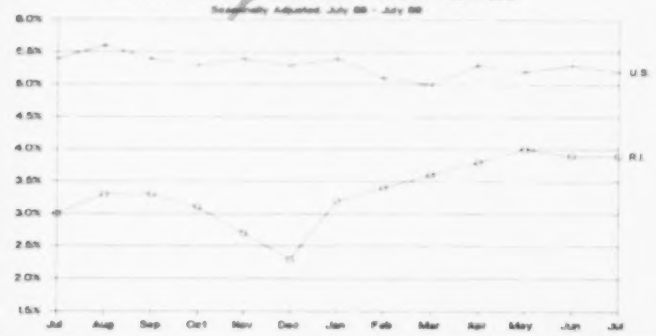
	July 1989	June 1989	July 1988	
Civilian Labor Force	537.7	532.2*	532.7	
Unemployment	21.1	20.1*	16.2	
Rate (Unadjusted)	3.9	3.8*	3.0	
Seasonally Adjusted Rate	3.9	3.9	3.0	*Revised

UNITED STATES

Labor Force - Unemployment Estimates
(In thousands)

	July 1989	June 1989	July 1988
Civilian Labor Force	126,238	125,569	123,888
Unemployment	6,736	6,850	6,823
Rate (Unadjusted)	5.3	5.5	5.5
Seasonally Adjusted Rate	5.2	5.3	5.4

R.I. and U.S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES



TOTAL ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYMENT IN RHODE ISLAND

	EMPLOYMENT IN THOUSANDS			NET CHANGE FROM	
	July 1989	June 1989	July 1988	June 1989	July 1988
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT*	457.2	461.7	455.4	-4500	+1800
MANUFACTURING	109.8	112.7	111.3	-2900	-1500
NONMANUFACTURING	347.4	349.0	344.1	-1600	+3300
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	23.4	22.8	22.4	+600	+1000
TRANS. & PUBLIC UTILITIES	15.7	16.4	15.6	-700	+100
TRADE (Wholesale & Retail)	105.5	105.5	105.2	0	+300
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	26.8	26.7	26.7	+100	+100
SERVICE (Miscellaneous)	117.9	117.2	117.0	+700	+900
GOVERNMENT	58.1	60.4	57.2	-2300	+900

ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYMENT, EARNINGS AND HOURS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN R.I.

July 1989

	EMPLOYMENT (In Thousands)	PRODUCTION WORKER AVERAGES Weekly Earnings	Weekly Hours	Hourly Earnings
ALL MANUFACTURING	109.8	354.38	38.9	9.11
DURABLE GOODS	74.8	348.43	38.5	9.05
LUMBER/FURNITURE	3.1	424.86	38.8	10.95
STONE-CLAY-GLASS	1.8	461.13	38.3	12.04
PRIMARY METALS	4.2	415.53	42.1	9.87
FABRICATED METALS	8.7	344.80	40.0	8.62
NONELECTRIC MACH.	5.6	463.14	41.5	11.16
ELECTRICAL MACH.	10.6	337.74	39.0	8.66
TRANS. EQUIPMENT	9.2	442.32	38.0	11.64
INSTRUMENTS	4.7	376.53	40.4	9.32
JEWELRY-SILVERWARE	20.5	278.96	37.8	7.38
MISCELLANEOUS MFG.	6.4	266.85	34.3	7.78
NONDURABLE GOODS	35.0	365.38	39.5	9.25
FOOD-BEVERAGE	2.8	363.80	41.2	8.83
TEXTILES	9.3	314.82	39.8	7.91
APPAREL	2.2	273.40	36.6	7.47
PAPER PRODUCTS	2.5	372.34	42.7	8.72
PRINTING-PUBLISHING	6.9	453.90	35.6	12.75
CHEMICAL PRODUCTS	3.2	459.91	41.1	11.19
RUBBER PRODUCTS	1.4	402.48	42.5	9.47
PLASTICS PRODUCTS	4.7	385.81	41.0	9.41
LEATHER PRODUCTS	2.0	260.68	39.2	6.65

*Farmers, Self-employed, Domestic and Armed Services personnel are excluded. Current month figures are PRELIMINARY. Prior month and year figures are REVISED. Compiled by THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY in cooperation with the U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

**Labor Dispute

For additional statistical information contact Research and Statistics at 277-3706.